

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

CLIMATE AND COLONIZATION

That colonization, as distinct from occupation and exploitation, can only succeed when the climate of the colony is somewhat similar to that of the parent country is pointed out by A. Austin Miller in his recent book "Climatology." Thus, north Europeans succeed best in Canada, south Europeans in Brazil; Spaniards colonized the Argentine, but Scots and Welshmen are needed in Patagonia and the bleak Falkland Islands. The Roman Empire exceeded its climatic limits in colonizing Britain and Germany and hence left little trace of its occupation in those countries as compared with the profound marks of Roman culture left in France and Spain, where the climate differed less from that of Rome.

Mr. Miller mentions further the following modern examples:

1. The climatic difficulties, particularly the impossibility of sustained manual labor in the moist heat of Queensland, which provide the most formidable obstacle to the white Australia policy.
2. The moderation of an equatorial climate by altitude on the East African plateau, which has made possible the establishment of real colonies there.
3. India, with its excessive heat and moisture from the tropical monsoon, which is one of the danger-points in the British Empire, because it cannot be settled by Europeans, but must be ruled by a transitory autocracy of British officials whose real home is elsewhere.

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21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D. C.